

PASTOR'S NOTE – 32nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
12TH NOVEMBER 2017

In our Gospel this Sunday, nearing the end of our Liturgical Calendar, Jesus tells a parable, partially an allegory, about something which would be very familiar to the people of His time – a village marriage. Ten girls would be asked to accompany the bride as she waited for the arrival of the bridegroom. The problem was that they had no idea when the bridegroom would turn up and, when evening comes; they would need to have lighted lamps. If the bride's companions were caught unawares, if they were not around when the bridegroom came, they could be locked out or left behind. This imagery drawn from marriage was a traditional way to describe the relationship between God and his people.

For Christians, who knew that Jesus is the Messiah and who has come and lived with us more than two thousand years ago, also believe that he will come again to fulfill all our hopes in the eternal happiness of heaven prepared for us. Thus, we cannot afford to waste our lifetime like those who have no hope and no faith. We cannot afford to behave like those who get busied in their daily duties and activities, as if work, profit, and pleasure were the most important things in life.

Rather, we, who are called Christians, will characterize ourselves as “expectant people” – people who have something very important to look forward to: our final encounter with Jesus Christ (Mt 25) when He made the very important promise that he will come back to take us with him, that where he is, we also may be” (Jn 14:3).

He also warned his disciples and us that he will come at a time we least expect. Therefore, the challenge is to always be watchful - not in crippling fear but in joyful and fruitful expectation. We have to wait for him with lamps filled with the oil of faith and good deeds. In other words, we have to live our lives with meaning and mission; and to live it to the full.

Our waiting for the Lord has got to be eager, wise, fully alert and ready to welcome him. The more he seems to delay his coming, the more we should strive to be worthy of him. If this is our disposition, we will not mind waiting, waiting for our beloved, just as we will not mind leaving everything aside to “go with” him when he comes.

As we proceed in the month of November, we continue remembering our departed brothers and sisters. We commend them all to the Lord's mercy with prayerful love. At the same time, let us not forget that we, too, on a day that is known to the Lord alone, will meet the Lord face to face and account for the way we have lived. That will be the most important moment in our existence because our eternal happiness or unhappiness will depend on it.

It is wise to keep this in mind and to prepare for that all-important encounter with the Lord.

In the Eucharist, let us ask for the grace to be always alert and prepared to welcome Him with the lighted torches of a life spent in faithful service to Him. Then He will invite us to walk with Him into the feast of eternal life.

Blessings, Fr Sherwin